

OFFICE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, GOVERNOR



SIMON G. GONSOLIN, DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 20, 2005

Dear New Orleans-area colleagues:

On September 8, the Office of Youth Development was scheduled to hold its 11th and final regional stakeholder meeting in New Orleans to gather input on Louisiana's juvenile justice reform efforts. Considering the amount of interest and participation from the Crescent City in the past, I have no doubt that it would have been one of our best attended and most successful meetings. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina forced us to alter our plans.

While conditions in the city still make it unfeasible to host a meeting in New Orleans, we have made arrangements to collect input from New Orleans stakeholders via our website, fax or mail. OYD staff has compiled the ideas of the approximately 1,500 people who have participated in the stakeholder meetings. These ideas – on safety, family involvement, community partnerships, continuum of care and data measurement – are available on OYD's website at www.oyd.louisiana.gov. I invite you to review the strategies and activities and to submit your thoughts to our office. We would like to receive all comments by November 7 so we can incorporate the ideas into the strategic plan. If you are unable to access the website, please call and we will make arrangements to send you the information.

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco made improving Louisiana's juvenile justice system a top priority of her administration. Now, more than ever, it is vital to ensure that we do everything in our power to strengthen families and develop the kinds of services that will ensure our young people's success. We welcome your involvement.

Sincerely,

Simon Gonsoulin
Deputy Secretary

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